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**ALDRIDGE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



of

**Public Health Conditions**

of the

**Aldridge Urban District**

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1961

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**ALDRIDGE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**Public Health Conditions**

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**Aldridge Urban District**

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1961

by

**V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health

and

**H. C. PERKINS, M.A.P.H.I.**

Chief Public Health Inspector



## **STAFF:**

### **Medical Officer of Health:**

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Health Department, Leighswood Road, Aldridge, Staffs.  
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### **Chief Public Health Inspector:**

H. C. PERKINS, M.A.P.H.I.  
Whole-time Officer.

### **Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:**

K. B. WILLIAMS.

### **Additional Public Health Inspectors:**

A. MERCER,  
W. K. TOWNEND, M.A.P.H.I.

### **Pupil Public Health Inspector:**

MISS M. ROBINSON.

### **Clerk:**

MISS B. M. MOORE.

### **Rodent Operative/Handyman:**

W. H. PLATT.

# TO THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-seventh Annual Report on the Public Health conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1961, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/62 of the 18th January, 1962.

## Area.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

## Population.

The estimated home population at mid-summer, 1961 was 51,680 (an increase of 2,750 from the previous year). This gives a population density of 5.56 per acre.

## Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books at 1.4.61 was 14,976, an increase of 406 from the previous year.

## Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value was £538,608 and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £2,244 for the year 1961-62.

## Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the population are:— Brickmaking, mining, agricultural; heavy and light industries are now well established. The district is also largely residential.

## Vital Statistics.

The statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

### LIVE BIRTHS:

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	... 640	... 598	... 1,238
Illegitimate	... 7	... 7	... 14
	—	—	—
	647	605	1,252
	—	—	—

Of these 1,252 births, 595 were registered locally, the remaining 657 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 47.5 per cent. of the births were, therefore registered locally, which is less than the percentage for last year (viz.: 48.7).

Illegitimate Live Birth Rate - per 1,000 live births  
was 11.18.

Still Birth Rate - 19 still births (males 12 and females 7) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 14.95 (or 0.36 per 1,000 of the population). The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.7. The still birth rate for 1960 was 23.64.



## BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 24.22 and the corrected live birth rate 21.07 — the latter can be compared with the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 17.4 for 1961.

For 1960 the crude and corrected live birth rates for the district were 23.34 and 20.3 respectively.

~~. Still Birth Rate~~ 19 still births (males 12 and females 7) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 14.95 (or 0.36 per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 14.95 (or 0.36 per 1,000 of the population). The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.7. The still birth rate for 1960 was 23.64.

~~Illegitimate Live Birth Rate~~ per 1,000 live birth was 11.18.

**Death Rate**—346 deaths (males 172, females 174).

The crude death rate was 6.69 and the corrected death rate 11.97 per 1,000 of the population—the latter can be compared with the crude death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 12.0 —0.5 higher than 1960.

**The Area Comparability Factors (A.C.F.'s)**—used for calculating the corrected birth and death rates have been amended and are now 0.87 and 1.79 respectively as compared with 0.87 and 1.81. This means a lowering of the crude birth rate and an increase of the crude death rate, and takes into account the fact that as the district rapidly develops the number of residents in the younger age groups annually increases.

In other words the A.C.F.'s make an approximate allowance for the way the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole.

When so corrected, the birth and death rates are comparable with the **crude** rates for England and Wales, or with the corresponding **corrected** rates for any other area.

In addition, the death rate A.C.F. is now adjusted specifically to take account of any "residential institutions" in the area.

One hundred and forty eight deaths were transferred into the district and 17 were transferred out.

**Infantile Death Rate**—24 Infants under one year of age died, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 19.17 per 1,000 live births. Of these 24 deaths 14 occurred in children under one week old.

Most deaths, it will be noted, occurred before the age of one week and were largely due to prematurity and congenital defects.

The Infantile Death Rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 21.4 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

No illegitimate infant died under one year of age.

Again, no death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

**Cancer, etc.**—70 deaths resulted from malignant neoplasms and included in these were 12 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Details of persons normally resident in the Aldridge Urban District who die of cancer (all kinds) continue to be forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Again, no death was due to Diphtheria, and 23 resulted from Pneumonia.

**Laboratory Facilities**—The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year reports on three swabs from throats etc., and 20 specimens of faeces were received, 17 of which were negative. Five specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli, and all were negative.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority:—

Ambulance Service. Infant Welfare Centres.

Home Help Service. Ante-Natal Clinics.

Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics).

**Laboratory Services**—The Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 377), Director—Dr. A. E. Wright (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

**Chemical Analysis**—County Analyst—A. Houlbrook, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 578).

**Hospitals**—Those chiefly used are: The General, the Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall; the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

**Maternity Accommodation**—Hospitalization, on medical grounds, is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

**Small Pox**—Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

**Venereal Diseases**—are, now-a-days, a moral and social problem rather than a medical one, as they can now be successfully cured by skilled treatment.

Venereal Clinics are held regularly at the Manor Hospital, Walsall for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

**Tuberculosis**—Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

## **WATER.**

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. H. Taylor, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, has kindly let me have ~~the~~ have the following information for the year 1961:—

1. The water supply to the Urban District of Aldridge has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply is derived mainly from one pumping station (Bourne Vale) within, and six outside, the Authority's boundaries. A proportion of water of surface origin is also supplied to parts of the district.

Samples of the water from the pumping stations are regularly and frequently subjected to both bacteriological and chemical examination and where possible samples of water prior to chlorination are regularly examined bacteriologically.

During 1961, 51 samples from Bourne Vale Pumping Station were all satisfactory.

165 samples from Barr Beacon Reservoirs were examined of which 163 were free from all types of coliform bacteria.

12 samples from the Waterman's house, Aldridge were free from coliform bacteria.

The average chemical results for 1961 were:—

pH	...	...	...	...	7.2	parts per million
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	...	...	126	"	"	"
Chlorides (Cl)	...	...	23.7	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	...	.035		"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	...	.050		"	"	"

Oxidised Nitrogen (N) ... ...	4.5	„ „ „
Oxygen absorbed (3hr. at 20°C.)	.57	„ „ „
Temporary Hardness ... ...	120	„ „ „
Permanent Hardness ... ...	113	„ „ „
Total Hardness ... ...	233	„ „ „
Total Solids ... ...	338	„ „ „
Iron (Fe) ... ...	.02	„ „ „
Manganese (Mn) ... ...	Trace	„ „ „
Calcium (Ca) ... ...	76.7	„ „ „
Magnesium (Mg) ... ...	8.6	„ „ „
Sulphate (S04) ... ...	86.2	„ „ „
Zinc (Zn) ... ...	Nil	„ „ „
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb) ...	Nil	„ „ „
Free Cl ... ...	.02	„ „ „

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all 12 samples from the waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the pumping stations. In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc. are not brought into use until the water has been examined and proved satisfactory.
5. The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1961, was 15,712.  
The number of houses supplied by means of an outside tap during 1961 was 17. These houses are included in the total of 15,172.

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the district has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The household refuse collection and disposal service was controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor during 1961.

**Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal Service**—On more than one occasion it has been reported to the Health Committee, that, as these services are not provided, repeated complaints have been received from industry and shopkeepers who are quite at a loss to know how to dispose of their trade refuse.

It is anticipated that the refuse collection and disposal services will be transferred to the Health Department during 1962, when every endeavour will be made to maintain, as far as practicable, a regular weekly removal of domestic refuse, and to establish a similar service for shops and industrial premises within the district.

## HOUSING.

The number of houses erected during the year 1961:—

Erected by Local Authority		Otherwise	
Erected during 1961	In course of erection at end of 1961	Erected during 1961	In course of erection at end of 1961
141	246	764	408
TOTALS:	Erected during 1961	...	905
	In course of erection at end of 1961		654

The number of Old Age Pensioner's Bungalows completed and occupied during 1961 was 7.

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936, will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

## Slum Clearance.

The following houses were demolished during the year:—

Aldridge Ward ...	...	...	...	...	13
Great Barr Ward	...	...	...	...	5
Pelsall Ward ...	...	...	...	...	15
Rushall Ward ...	...	...	...	...	8
					—
					41
					—

## SAMPLING OF MILK AND FOODS

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst (See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

## **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

### **Hospital Accommodation.**

The arrangements for admission of infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

### **Schools.**

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease.

### **Small Pox (Contacts).**

A few sporadic cases of Small Pox occurred in the Midlands in December, 1961—several remote contacts were traced to the District. All necessary precautions were taken and each contact was given full instructions what to do.

Fortunately, no case occurred within the District.

### **Diphtheria.**

Again, no case of diphtheria was notified during 1961.

The last case of diphtheria occurred in the year 1956.

### **Immunisation.**

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

I am grateful to Dr. Jamison, Area Medical Officer for the following information in respect of immunisations and Vaccinations carried out in the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51	Total
(a) No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during 1961	339	713	187	69	53	403	236	2,000
(b) No. of children who received a re-inforcing injection in 1961	—	—	20	10	10	24	2,129	4,046

### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51	Total
(a) No. of children who received a primary course of pertussis vaccine (singularly or in combination) during 1961	416	172	24	12	10	17	5	656

### Small Pox Vaccination.

Ages	Under 1	1-2	2-4	5-14	15 & over.	Total
Vaccination	319	47	24	15	17	422
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	1	3	39

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

No figures are available for the Aldridge Urban District.

The following figures relate to the Area.

No. of persons in area who completed a primary course of injections at 31.12.61 was	... ...	49,928
Total number of boosters (3rd injection)	... ...	30,882
Total number of boosters (4th injection)	... ...	577
Estimated population of area (mid-1960)	... ...	128,160
Estimated population of Aldridge U.D. (mid-1961)		51,680

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1961.

Disease						Total cases notified after correction
Diphthteria	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	29
Enteric Fever — including Paratyphoid					...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	...	...	...	...	...	1,423
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	...	—
(Non-Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	...	...	...	...	...	—
(Post-Infectious)	...	...	...	...	...	—

**ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS CASES  
(AFTER CORRECTION) IN AGE GROUPS AND  
WARDS IS GIVEN BELOW:-**

AGE GROUPS		Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Mening: Infection
				Para.	Non. Para.				
0—1 year	...	1	2	—	—	66	—	—	1
1—2 years	...	1	—	—	—	132	—	—	—
2—3 years	...	4	1	—	—	184	—	—	—
3—4 years	...	2	1	—	—	205	—	—	—
4—5 years	...	3	—	—	—	186	—	—	—
5—9 years	...	13	3	—	—	619	—	—	—
10—14 years	...	3	—	—	—	19	—	—	—
15—24 years	...	2	—	—	—	6	—	—	1
25+	...	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Unknown	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	...	29	7	—	—	1423	—	—	2
WARDS									
Aldridge	...	9	1	—	—	587	—	—	1
Great Barr	...	2	1	—	—	92	—	—	—
Pelsall	...	4	1	—	—	266	—	—	—
Pheasey	...	7	3	—	—	199	—	—	1
Rushall	...	4	1	—	—	134	—	—	—
Streetly	...	3	—	—	—	145	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	...	29	7	—	—	1423	—	—	2

AGE GROUPS	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
0—4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44 years ...	2	2	1	—	—	—	1
45—64 years ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
WARDS							
Aldridge ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Great Barr ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pelsall ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pheasey ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rushall ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streetly ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following Table shows the attack rate of certain infectious diseases notified during 1961 per 1,000 of the population:—

	Cases	Rate
Scarlet Fever ...	29	0.56
Whooping Cough ...	7	0.13
Pneumonia ...	3	0.05
Measles ...	1,423	27.53

## TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-six cases of tuberculosis (see Table) were entered on the Register, 20 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary.

3 cases resided in Aldridge, 8 in Great Barr, 3 in Pelsall, 7 in Pheasey, 1 in Rushall and 4 in Streetly.

Two of these 26 cases were notified from Institutions and 19 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification as follows:—

Inward Transfers	...	...	...	...	...	17
First notification after death	...	...	...	...	...	2
Restored to Register	...	...	...	...	...	—
						—
						19
						—

The 17 cases transferred into the District came to reside as follows:—

Aldridge 3, Great Barr 5, Pelsall 2, Pheasey 4, Rushall Nil, Streetly 3.

There were 335 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/61 (excluding the cases resident in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr) as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
167	...	138	13
(6.5 per 1,000 population)			

There were 11 cases of tuberculosis in St. Margaret's Hospital, on the register at 31/12/61 as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
10	...	—	1
(approximately 7.8 per 1,000 in St. Margaret's Hospital)			

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year, for the whole of the District, including those in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, was therefore 346 made up as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
177	...	138	14

The notification of tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Three deaths from Pulmonary and no death from Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis were registered, the former giving a death rate of 0.05 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table shows the cases of tuberculosis entered on the register, classified according to age and sex, during 1961, including those from St. Margaret's Hospital.

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1 year	...	—	—	...	—
1—2 years	...	—	—	...	—
2—5 „	...	—	—	...	—
5—10 „	...	—	—	...	—
10—15 „	...	—	1	...	—
15—20 „	...	—	—	...	—
20—25 „	...	1	2	...	—
25—35 „	...	6	4	...	2
35—45 „	...	2	—	...	—
45—55 „	...	2	—	...	—
55—65 „	...	—	1	...	—
65—75 „	...	1	—	...	—
75 and over	...	—	—	...	—
		—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	12	8	...	2
		—	—	—	—

Of the 346 cases on the register several were resident in caravans and I strongly recommend the Housing Committee to favourably consider any applications for re-housing which may be made by caravan dwellers, particularly where there are young children in the families.

The number of tuberculosis cases (26) entered on the register is 0.50 per 1,000 of the population and is considerably lower than in recent years. In 1960 the number was 59.

This figure (0.50) for 1961 compares with:—

0.85 for 1951	1.11 for 1956
1.29 for 1952	0.76 for 1957
0.92 for 1953	0.92 for 1958
1.20 for 1954	1.41 for 1959
1.11 for 1955	1.20 for 1960

The average for this decade was 1.07.

The total number (346) on the register at 31/12/61 is the highest ever recorded, and represents 6.68 per 1,000 of the population. As the sufferers from this disease appear to be more health conscious, and/or are better able financially to move from the denser populated neighbouring areas to the Aldridge Urban District, it is probable the number on the register may tend to increase disproportionately to the increase in population.

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

## **Dysentery**

No case of dysentery was notified.

## **FOOD POISONING**

Four cases of food poisoning were investigated (one case confirmed). Twenty reports on samples of faeces were received.

## **FOOD HYGIENE**

The visiting of food premises was regularly carried out during 1961, and reports have been submitted monthly to the Health Committee. Considerable progress has been made towards raising the standard of the storage, handling and distribution of foods, to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

## **THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1958**

## **THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS 1958.**

Both the slaughter houses in the District have been brought up to the full standards as laid down by the above Regulations.

## **MORTUARY.**

The Mortuary, at Anchor Road, Aldridge, continues to operate satisfactorily. The same part-time attendant is employed and the arrangements appear to be satisfactory. There has been full co-operation with the Police.

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

The modern sewage disposal works to replace the inadequate and obsolete works situated at Chester Road, Streetly, are now completed.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

In August it was found necessary to have an aged man removed to St. John's Hospital, Walsall, under Section 47 of the Above Act, and in December a second aged man was admitted to the same hospital under the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951.

The circumstances of three other aged persons were also investigated, but no legal action was necessary.

## **CARAVANS.**

Since the introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, which became operative in August, 1960, more effective powers are now available for dealing with caravan sites.

Under the provisions of this Act, model standards have been introduced for the control of such sites, especially in regard to density and space between caravans, roads and footpaths, hard standings, fire fighting appliances, water supply, drainage, sanitation and washing facilities, refuse disposal, storage space, car parking and recreation space.

## **MASS RADIOGRAPHY — MOBILE UNIT A — ROUTINE SURVEY**

The above unit examined 563 persons (Males 275, Females 288) resident in the Aldridge Urban District, and one of those was found to require occasional supervision for Tuberculosis, i.e. (a prevalence of 1.7 per 1,000 persons), and 22 were found to be suffering from non-tuberculosis lung abnormalities.

## **MOBILE UNIT B**

This unit holds regular sessions at the Ambulance Station, Walsall, and 4,302 cases (Males 2,440, Females 1,862) were examined, including many from the Aldridge Urban District. This unit deals with cases referred by Doctors, and, as is to be expected, much higher prevalence rates for Tuberculosis and lung cancer were discovered. Of the 4,032 examined, 59 Tuberculosis cases were referred to clinic or hospital (a prevalence of 13.7 per 1,000 persons) and 547 non-tuberculous cases discovered.

There can be no doubt that Mass Radiography is instrumental in discovering many chest cases in the early stages of disease, and this of course is most desirable, as early diagnosis enhances the probability of a cure.

## **GENERAL REMARKS.**

The health of the population during ~~August~~, 1961 was very satisfactory, the corrected vital statistics comparing more than favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole.

For the fourteenth consecutive year no death resulted from pregnancy, child birth or abortion.

The Infantile Death Rate was 19.17 (England and Wales 21.4—the lowest ever recorded), and when it is recalled that in the year 1925 the rate for the District (Walsall Rural) was 80, the excellent work carried out by the County Mother and Child Welfare Services together with that of the General Practitioners will be readily appreciated.

Co-operation with the Housing Manager in the re-housing of certain families on purely medical grounds continues satisfactorily, such cases receiving some degree of priority. Urgent cases may now receive first priority.

Every effort continues to be made by the Department to deal with the problems arising from atmospheric pollution, food hygiene and slum properties.

**1956**  
The Clean Air Act, ~~1965~~ (Smoke Control Areas) is being vigorously implemented. Problems arise from time to time and are chiefly concerned with the handling of new types of smokeless fuel. The complaints received are chiefly from elderly persons and are dealt with energetically by members of the staff.

Appreciable improvements have been brought about as the result of regular inspection of all food premises.

Longevity is increasing, as shown by the fact that 148 (42.7%) of all deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age, and this partly explains why 70 deaths were due to malignant neoplasms and 153 due to cardio-vascular diseases, as these diseases occur predominantly in the elderly.

All members of the staff have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

The Chief Public Health Inspector continues in his usual competent and energetic manner.

I again wish to thank you Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also fellow Officers and Council Staff for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

## TOTAL DEATHS.

### Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1961)

	CAUSES OF DEATH					Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	172	174
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	3	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	8	4
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	11	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	—	11
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	17	16
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	11	26
18.	Coronary Diseases, Angina	...	...	...	...	34	18
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	8	8
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	10	29
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	14	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	15	3
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	—	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	3	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	6	5
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	15	18
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
34.	All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	2
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.						Male	Female
Total	...	...	...	...	...	13	11
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	13	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE.							
Total (included in above)		...	...	...	...	6	8
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS.							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	647	605
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	640	598
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	7

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1961.

**To the Chairman and Members of  
the Aldridge Urban District Council.**

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting this my fourth Annual Report on the work of the department during the year.

### (a) **Meat and Food Inspection.**

During the year 100% meat inspection has been maintained at the two private slaughterhouses. Extensive work has been carried out to these slaughterhouses to bring them up to the modern day standard required by statute and regulations.

It is gratifying to report that no cattle were affected with tuberculosis, and, that the main causes for condemnation were distomatosis, cirrhosis, necrosis, and parasitic conditions of lungs.

### (b) **Slum Clearance.**

Again steady progress has been made with the Council's slum clearance programme. 41 dwellinghouses were demolished during the year by formal Housing Act procedure and acquisition by the Council for re-development purposes. Ten Demolition Orders and two Closing Orders were made. Four Clearance Orders comprising 65 dwellinghouses were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(c) **Food Hygiene.**

It is gratifying to be able to report that it has been possible to carry out regular and systematic inspections of all food shops and factory canteens within the district.

I should like to record my appreciation to all shop and factory management for their assistance and co-operation in trying to establish a high standard and code of practice in all aspects of food handling, preparation, storage, and sale of food to the general public.

## **HOUSING.**

**1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	...      ...      ...      ...      ...	104
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	1,216
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...      ...      ...      ...      ...	75
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...      ...      ...      ...      ...	29
(4) Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	...      ...      ...      ...      ...	Nil
Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	...      ...      ...      ...      ...	Nil

**2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notice:—**

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...      ...      ...      ...      ...	11
---	---	----

**3.—Action Under Statutory Powers during the year:—**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:—		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...      ...      ...      ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	...      ...      ...      ...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—							
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ... ... ...	11						
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—							
(a) By Owners ... ... ... ... ...	11						
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... ... ... ...	Nil						
(c) Proceedings under Sections 17, 23 and 42 of the Housing Act, 1957:—							
(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... ... ...	10						
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... ...	12						
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders ... ... ...	8						
(4) Houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(a) of the Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil						
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified by Medical Officer of Health demolished by informal action ... ... ... ... ...	7						
(6) Local Authority owned houses (not unfit) demolished for re-development purposes ...	14						
(7) Houses demolished informally by site developers ... ... ... ... ...	Nil						
(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—							
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ...	Nil						
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... ... ...	Nil						

## **SITUATION OF PROPERTIES DEALT WITH AS SHOWN IN THE ABOVE TABLES**

### **Individual Demolition Orders.**

Individual Demolition Orders were made by the Council on the following houses:—

- 23, 25, 27, 29, High Street, Aldridge.
- 2, 4, 6, Rookery Lane, Aldridge.
- 30, Walsall Road, Aldridge.
- 316, 318, Queslett Road, Great Barr.

## **Closing Orders.**

Closing orders were made by the Council on the following houses:—

“Rose Cottage,” 145, Pinfold Lane, Barr Beacon.

Dwelling house at the rear of 75, Walsall Road, Heath End, Pelsall.

## **Clearance Orders.**

Clearance Orders were made by the Council on the following dwelling houses:—

Aldridge (Winterley Lane, New Street, Lichfield Road, Rushall) Clearance Area No. 29:—

2—30, Winterley Lane, Rushall.

45—89, New Street, Rushall.

22—28, New Street, Rushall.

38, 40, and 50—56, New Street, Rushall.

Aldridge (Winterley Lane, New Street, Lichfield Road, Rushall) Clearance Area No. 30:—

21—41, New Street, Rushall.

6—12, New Street, Rushall.

Aldridge (Winterley Lane, New Street, Lichfield Road, Rushall) Clearance Area No. 31:—

5 and 7, New Street, Rushall.

Aldridge (Fishley Lane, Pelsall) Clearance Area No. 32:—

21 and 22, Fishley Lane, Pelsall.

## **Houses Demolished.**

### **Individual Demolition Orders:—**

37, 39, 41, Paradise Lane, Pelsall.

Wooden Bungalow, No. 20, Wooden Bungalow No. 78,  
Wooden Bungalow No. 21 “Belle View”, all on Shaw’s  
Caravan Site, Pinfold Lane, Barr Beacon.

101, 103, Whetstone Lane, Aldridge.

71, Norton Road, Pelsall.

316, 318, Queslett Road, Great Barr.

30, Walsall Road, Aldridge.

### **Compulsory Purchase Orders:—**

1, 3, 5, Walsall Road, Heath End, Pelsall

(Part of Aldridge (Heath End, Pelsall) Compulsory  
Purchase Order 1955).

202, 204, 206, 208, 210, Lichfield Road, Pelsall

(Aldridge (Lichfield Road, Pelsall) Compulsory Pur-  
chase Order, 1959).

### **Local Authority owned houses (unfit):—**

1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, Daw End Lane, Rushall.

### **Local Authority owned houses (not unfit) demolished for re-development purposes:—**

“Selston House Farm”, Lichfield Road, Rushall.

“White Hollies”, Norton Road, Pelsall.

33, Leighswood Road, Aldridge.

House at rear of 33, Leighswood Road, Aldridge.

13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, Walsall Road, Aldridge.

Jesamine Cottage, Baker's Lane, Aldridge.

Barnsley's Cottage, Bakers Lane, Aldridge.

10, 12, Paradise Lane, Pelsall.

### **RENT ACT 1957**

Number of applications for Certificate of Disrepair ... ...	3
Number of Certificates Granted ... ... ... ...	2
Number of Applications for Cancellations ... ... ...	Nil
Number of Undertakings given by Landlords and accepted by the Council ... ... ... ... ...	2

### **FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.**

#### **Food Premises**

##### **Inspection and Supervision of:**

No. of Food Shops and Food Preparing Rooms Inspected	130
No. of Notices Served ... ... ... ...	29
No. of Contraventions Found ... ... ... ...	64
No. of Notices Completed ... ... ... ...	32
No. of Improvements ... ... ... ...	168

##### **Inspections made of:**

Ice Cream Shops ... ... ... ...	2
Inspections made re Unsound Food ... ... ...	16
Inspections made re Food Sampling ... ... ...	3

#### **Nature and Type of Improvements to Food Premises During the Year.**

Articles and Equipment Provided ... ... ...	2
Cleanliness—Ceilings ... ... ...	6
Floors ... ... ...	11
Walls ... ... ...	10
Clothing Accommodation ... ... ...	3
Drainage ... ... ...	1
First-Aid Equipment ... ... ...	18
Hot Water ... ... ...	10

Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intervening Ventilated Space	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Equipment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Personal Cleanliness Display Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Protection of Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Redecoration and/or repair—Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Refuse Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Soap, Nailbrushes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wash hand basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
								169

### Details of Samples Taken in Aldridge Urban District Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, During 1961.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods taken in the district have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

#### Milk:

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	14
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	20
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	11
					47
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	

All milks were genuine.

#### General Food and Drugs

Antacid Tablets	Irish Butter
Apple and Raspberry Jam	Jelly Crystals, Strawberry
Asthma Inhalant	Juices of Guava and Grape
Beans in Tomato Sauce	Julienne Soup
Beef Sausage (3)	Lard (3)
Beetroot	Lemon Curd

Blackcurrant Drink (2)	Margarine
Blackcurrant Jam	Meat Soup
Bramble Seedless Jelly	Medicated Shampoo
Bread Sauce	Milk, Condensed
Breakfast Grill	Minced Beef and Spaghetti
Butter	Minced Beef and Mash Potatoes
Butter Beans	Mixed Fruit Jam
Butter Crinkle Biscuits	Mixed Vegetables
Cheddar Cheese	Mushroom Soup
Cheeselets Biscuits	Oatmeal
Cheshire Cheese	Orange Juice
Chemical Food	Orange Milk Shake
Chicken Stuffing	Olive Oil (2)
Chicken and Ham Croquettes	Opal Fruits
Chicken Jumbo Soup	Pain-Relief Tablets
Chopped Pork and Ham	Pears in Syrup
Cleaned Mixed Fruit	Plain Flour (3)
Cochineal Extract	Pork Sausages (14)
Cocktail Sausages	Pork Luncheon Meat
Cocktail Onions	Pork Dripping
Concentrated Tomato Puree	Prawns
Cold Preventive Tablets	Lemon Juice
Corned Beef Loaf	Rum (8)
Corn Oil	Savoury Ducks
Creamed Rice Milk Pudding (2)	Saccharin Tablets
Distilled Vinegar	Sauternes
Epsom Salts	Shredded Beef Suet
Fancy Salmon	Sild in Olive Oil
Frankfurters in Brine	Sliced Beetroot
Fruit Sauce	Sliced Beans
Glace Cherries	Spearmint Crush
Ground Almonds	Sterilised Cream (2)
Glucose Barley Sugar	Striped Mints
Golden Crumbs	Sugar
Granulated Sugar (2)	Seed Tapioca
Gooseberries in Syrup	Teas (2)
Humbugs	Tomato Juice
Instant Coffee	Vegetable Juices
Ice Cream (2)	Whisky (8)
Indian Tonic Water	Gin (4)

TOTAL GENERAL SAMPLES ... ... 138

## Samples Below Standard.

### ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Blackcurrant Drink,

22 B/W.

Contained a minute fragment of glass.

Informal.

Cautioned.

Formal repeat sample genuine.

Pork Sausage, containing Preservative.

32 B/W 16.1% Deficient of Meat.

Pork Sausage, containing Preservative.

86 B/W 8.7% Deficient of Meat.

Cautioned.

Formula being altered to produce 65% meat content.

Pork Dripping,

36 B/W

Contained undeclared artificial colouring.

Plain Flour,

Labels to be amended.

28 B/X

Slightly deficient of Creta Praeparata.

Informal.

Formal repeat sample genuine.

Pork Sausage, containing Preservative.

67 B/X 20.9% Deficient of meat.

Cautioned.

## UNsound Foods.

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption:—

### BOVINE:

				No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Carcase and offal	...	...	...	1	520	—
Head	...	...	...	1	18	—
Heart	...	...	...	1	2	12
Liver and portions	...	...	...	23	458	12½
Lungs and portions trachea and oesophagus	...	...	...	7	72	—
Mesentery	...	...	...	1	6	—
Skirt	...	...	...	2	4	8

### PIGS:

Carcase and offal	...	...	...	1	95	—
Forequarters	...	...	...	—	10	—
Head and tongue	...	...	...	1	10	—
Heart	...	...	...	3	1	2
Heart and lungs	...	...	...	3	5	—
Heart and pericardium	...	...	...	1	—	8
Liver	...	...	...	2	13	—
Liver and lungs	...	...	...	—	4	—
Lungs and portions	...	...	...	17½	36	12
Pluck	...	...	...	1	6	—
Pork Loin	...	...	...	1	10	—

### SHEEP:

Heart	...	...	...	6	2	7
Liver and portions	...	...	...	6	35	4
Lungs and portions	...	...	...	46	45	4
Spleen	...	...	...	1	—	—

### TINS:

Corned Beef	...	...	...	1	—	7
Corned Mutton	...	...	...	2	12	—
Grapefruit	...	...	...	21	10	8

TOTAL	...	149½	1,379	4½
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MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR  
BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1961.  
Retail Milk Samples

Designated	No. Submitted	CLEANLINESS		PHOSPHATASE		TURBIDITY		Submitted Biological	Found to contain tubercle bacilli
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail		
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	9	8	1	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	97	91†	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	...	...	...	74	66†	1	74	—	—
Sterilised	...	...	...	58	—	—	—	58	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	...	...	...	238	165	2	171	—	58
								—	3*

\* The three samples submitted to the Biological Test were included in the number submitted to the cleanliness test.

† Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ... ... 6  
Pasteurised ... ... ... 7 } samples void owing to the high atmospheric shade temperature.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 — DETAILS OF SAMPLES COLLECTED DURING 1961.**

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>47</b>						
								All satisfactory.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
IN WHOLE OR PART**

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ... ...	198	12	7	1,130	135
Number inspected ... ... ...	198	12	7	1,130	135
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBER-</b>					
<b>CULOSIS AND CYSTICERCUS:</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	77	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	70	5	—	—	37
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	35.3%	41.6%	—	6.8%	27.4%
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	—	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	2.2%
<b>CYSTICERCOSIS:</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticercosis ...	1.0%	—	—	—	—

NOTE.—Main reasons for condemnation:—

1. Cattle and cows—distomatosis and cirrhosis.
2. Sheep and lambs—parasitic condition of lungs.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

### Industrial.

There has been very little change since my last report with regard to industrial atmospheric pollution.

A close surveillance has been kept on all industries within the Urban District and any contravention of the law has been quickly dealt with.

A constant source of trouble are those industries controlled by the Alkali Inspector, but even with these industries there is now much room for optimism. Successful trials have been carried out using oil fuel in the burning of blue bricks. It is now a question of time in perfecting firing technique, coupled of course with the comparative economics of different fuels.

### Smoke Control Areas.

The first Smoke Control Area within the Urban District became operative during 1961. Four separate housing estates were affected, three of which comprised of private development and one Council development embracing approximately 1,360 houses and 140 acres.

The advent of the Smoke Control Orders was, of course, a new experience for the department, which brought along problems never previously encountered.

The greatest difficulties were found on the Council Estate, the smallest area in size, where the majority of the people, even though well supplied beforehand with explanatory literature, just had no idea what the burning of smokeless fuels meant, and it was found necessary to visit every house in the area to get anywhere near the root of people's difficulties, even though a Mobile Gas Board Demonstration Unit had spent many weeks on the estate.

Generally it was found that a basic prejudice to smokeless fuels, particularly coke, was the main trouble. In many instances, only small misunderstandings in the use of new fuels were causing concern. These were very soon put right. Unfortunately these troubles were sometimes aggravated, specially during bad weather, by difficulty in the supplies of premium smokeless fuels. Discussions with coal merchants and Gas Board officials helped to improve this difficult problem.

A great deal of time was spent by members of the department in trying to help people to get accustomed to the new habit and idea of burning smokeless fuels. Offences were overlooked and advice given, instead of resorting to statutory action.

In all, the time has now arrived when a much firmer line of action is going to be required against people who will not enter into the spirit of "Clean Air" and blatantly continue to contravene the Clean Air Act.

During the twelve months a further eight Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, all of which will be operative during 1962. It is pleasing to note that all the Smoke Control Orders, twelve in number, have been confirmed, with only one objection, which was later withdrawn without an enquiry.

Also, I am pleased to record that the survey of the local authority's largest proposed Smoke Control Area, the Pheasey and Park Farm Estate, consisting of 3,400 houses, was completed during the year and the costs for adaptations of the fireplaces, amounting to a total of £24,613 has been approved by the Council.

### **Inspections, Investigations and Visits—Clean Air Act 1956**

Atmospheric Pollution Investigations and Visits ...	29
Combustion Plant Inspections ... ... ...	8
Smoke Control Inspections and Visits ... ...	1,867
Notices of Intention to Install New Furnace Plant	7

### **FACTORIES ACT.**

Number of factories on register ... ... ...	109
Number of visits made ... ... ...	51

### **Sanitary Accommodation in Factories—Dealt with.**

Number of written notices served ... ... ...	2
Number of defects ... ... ...	28
Insufficient ... ... ...	Nil
Number of notices complied with ... ... ...	12

### **Complaints.**

Complaints received at the Health Department and dealt with:—

Drainage, House Defects, Nuisances etc. ... ...	167
Defective Dustbins ... ... ...	702
Rats and Mice Infestation ... ... ...	273
	_____
	1,142
	_____

## Notices Dealt With During The Year.

			Notices Served		Notices Completed		Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded
Informal	...	...	189	...	213	...	1
Statutory	...	...	258	...	263	...	9
			—		—		—
			447	...	476	...	10
			—		—		—

## Visits Made — Public Health Inspections.

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Aged Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Animals and Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Brook Course Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Combustion Plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,005
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Housing—Public Health Act—Informal Repairs				...	...	...	...	135
				Statutory Repairs	...	...	...	37
Housing Act—				Informal Repairs	...	...	...	40
				Statutory Repairs	...	...	...	6
Demolition—Informal			...	...	...	...	...	113
			Statutory	...	...	...	...	224
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	481
Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Industrial Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Noise Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Privy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rats and Mice (by Public Health Inspectors)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Sewer Conversion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,867
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Theatre Licences and Cinema Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Trade Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
Tipping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Verminous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water Supply and Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
								5,411

### Nature and Number of Structural Defects Dealt with in Houses:

*Together with Nuisances and Other Matters.*

#### House Defects:

##### External—

Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Window reveals	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

##### Internal—

Ceilings, plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dampness, rising	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness, penetrating	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Staircase	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Walls, plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Windows, defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Windows, sash cords	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

**Closet Accommodation Defects:**

Water closet cistern	...	...	...	...	6
Water closet compartment	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet pedestal	...	...	...	...	3

**Drainage:**

Defects	...	...	...	...	1
Downspouts	...	...	...	...	4
Eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	3
Sink Waste	...	...	...	...	1
Yard Surface	...	...	...	...	3

**Miscellaneous:**

Boundary walls	...	...	...	...	Nil
Caravans	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	Nil
Ditches	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pig Sties	...	...	...	...	Nil
Refuse accumulations	...	...	...	...	5
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	Nil
Tips	...	...	...	...	Nil
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	Nil
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	Nil
Water Service	...	...	...	...	Nil
					—
					84
					—

**Closet Accommodation.**

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with a water closet provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets in such areas where sewers are not available.

The owners of a farmhouse availed themselves of the Council's financial assistance aid to convert one pail closet to a water closet with appropriate drainage to a cesspool.

Number of pails remaining in the district ... ... 36

**THE THEATRES ACT 1843**  
**CINEMATOGRAPH ACTS 1903—1952.**

Number of applications for the performance of stage plays received and granted ... ... ... 4

Annual inspections of Cinemas:—

(1) Beacon Cinema, Great Barr	...	...	1
(2) Avion Cinema, Aldridge	...	...	1

The inspection of the above-mentioned schools and cinemas were carried out in conjunction with the Staffordshire County Council Fire Brigade Fire Precautions Officers whose co-operation is greatly appreciated.

**PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.**

Applications received and granted for a Licence to keep a Pet Shop ... ... ... ... 1

**NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.**

(a) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	141
(b) By Other Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	764

**NUMBER OF HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION  
AT THE END OF THE YEAR.**

(a) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	246
(b) By Other Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	408

**SAMPLING OF WATER SUPPLIES**

Samples of drinking water submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination were taken from the following premises:—

Wren's Nest Farm, Skip Lane, Barr Beacon—Well water.

Turfields Ltd., Anglian Road, Aldridge—

Land spring and shallow well.

Pear Tree Farm (21 and 22) Fishley Lane, Pelsall—

Well water.

100, Daniels Lane, Aldridge—Well Water.

Crook House Farm, Chapel Lane, Great Barr—Land spring.

## SAMPLING OF BROOK COURSES.

Swab samples were taken from the following brook courses and submitted for bacteriological examination:—

Rear of Pelsall Railway Station (where Fordbrook flows into the A.U.D.C. boundary).

400 yards downstream from bridge in Pelsall Lane, Rushall.

Rear of 106, Barns Lane, Rushall (downstream from where effluent from Barns Lane Sewage Works discharges).

Fotherley Brook, Little Aston Road, Aldridge.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK.

### Premises Inspected

(To confirm infestation or otherwise).

		Totals Inspected	Found Infested	Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	201	177	24
Business Premises	...	42	34	8
Council Premises	...	10	10	—
		253	221	32

## VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	1,422
Business Premises	...	...	...	463
Council Premises	...	...	...	250
				2,135

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 SECTION 75(1).

Dustbins supplied by Council, informally on request	...	129
Dustbins supplied by Council on request after service of Statutory Notice	...	35
Dustbins supplied by Council in default of Statutory Notice	...	18
Dustbins supplied to Council properties	...	211
Dustbins supplied by occupiers and/or owners voluntarily after service of Statutory Notice	...	197
		590

May I take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and support in the many projects and problems that I have had the honour to present.

I would also like to say thank you to the Clerk of the Council, Engineer and Surveyor, Treasurer, Housing Manager and the Parks Superintendent, and members of their respective staffs for all the help and co-operation I have received from them.

I would particularly like to thank Dr. V. E. Milne, Medical Officer of Health for the valuable assistance and co-operation received and for discussions on the many complex problems that have had to be dealt with during the year.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to the staff for their patient, courteous and helpful outlook and co-operation in the conduct of their duties.

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. PERKINS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.





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